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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding Policies, Procedures and Rules for Regulation of Physical Security for the Electric Supply Facilities of Electrical Corporations Consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 364 and to Establish Standards for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Plans for Electrical Corporations and Regulated Water Companies Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 768.6.

Rulemaking 15-06-009

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING REQUIRING PARTIES TO
RESPOND TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO THE FIRST WORKSHOP
IN PHASE II OF THIS PROCEEDING**

Background

On June 11, 2015, the Commission approved an Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to establish policies, procedures, and rules for the regulation of physical security risks to the electric supply facilities of electrical corporations consistent with Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Section 364 (Phase I) and to establish standards for disaster and emergency preparedness plans for electrical corporations and regulated water companies consistent with Pub. Util. Code Section 768.6 (Phase II).

Ensuring that utilities are adequately prepared for emergencies and other disasters is of great importance in order to maintain high quality, safe, and reliable service. In order to ensure that regulated utilities are sufficiently

prepared to deal with emergencies and other disasters, the Commission is opening this rulemaking to provide for the regulatory framework concerning emergency and disaster preparedness plans that regulated utilities shall adopt in order to be better prepared for disasters and other emergencies.

With input from the public and local agencies, the Commission will ensure electric corporations and regulated water companies have emergency preparedness plans that will be better able to help protect the public from disruption in electricity and water supply during emergencies or other disasters, and that are consistent with the requirements of Section 768.6 to the Pub. Util. Code. Part of this rulemaking is to solicit input from the utilities and other interested persons on what rules and procedures should be adopted by this Commission.

As with Phase I of this proceeding, Phase II, will be conducted using various workshops. In order to ensure that these workshops are productive, the parties are required to file and serve written responses to the questions presented below.

1. Questions for Workshop I in Phase II of this Proceeding

1. Communications Protocols

1. (a) What are the best practices in terms of communication protocols being used by utilities to communicate with government agencies at all levels, and other utilities during emergencies?
- (b) Would standardization of such protocols improve effectiveness of utility preparedness and response?
2. What communication protocols should be considered to ensure that the utilities are adequately communicating

with the following entities and stakeholders before, during and after an emergency?

- (a) The Commission
 - (b) Local government agencies
 - (c) Customers, particularly customers with special needs (e.g. disabled persons, customers with medical needs)
 - (d) Other utilities
3. What should be the Commission's role in ensuring better communication and community involvement in the regulated utilities emergency response plan?

2. Utility Engagement with Communications Providers

- 4. How are utilities currently communicating with communications providers in the context of emergencies?
- 5. What protocols or procedures are in place to address situations where communications providers' networks are unavailable/inaccessible?
- 6. To what extent are utilities with Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCNs) and existing communications facilities using these networks for external communication in the event of an emergency? If these facilities are not currently being used, explain why.

3. Communication with Special Needs Populations

- 7. What measures do utilities currently have in place to allow for effective communication with people who cannot access standard forms of communication (due to disability or limited English proficiency)?
- 8. What specific measures can the Commission initiate to ensure that utilities communicate more effectively with such individuals before, during and after emergencies?

4. Engagement with Local Government

- 9. How should the Commission monitor and ensure compliance with the requirements in Pub. Util. Code

- Section 768.6 that electrical corporations and regulated water companies meet with representatives from cities and counties within their service territories when developing or updating disaster and emergency preparedness plans?
10. What specific changes can the Commission introduce to make the participation of local government agencies in utilities' preparation of disaster and emergency preparedness plans participation more meaningful?
 11. What new measures should the Commission put in place to improve communication and coordination by utilities with local government agencies in the context of emergencies?
 12. How can the utilities assist counties and local emergency services in communicating alerts, emergency notifications and/or evacuation notices?
 13. How can utilities more effectively include local first responders in their emergency planning and response efforts?
 14. Should utilities be required to explain their reasons for rejecting changes proposed by local government agencies during the process of developing disaster and emergency preparedness plans? If so, what would be the most appropriate mechanism for utilities to make their reasoning transparent?

The parties shall file responses to the above questions no later than September 14, 2018.

IT IS SO RULED.

Dated August 31, 2018, at San Francisco, California

/s/ GERALD F. KELLY
Gerald F. Kelly
Administrative Law Judge